

Thank you for allowing me to address the court, on behalf of the residents of Oreland and Springfield Township.

My name is Margaret Mary Burke and I am a resident of Oreland.

On June 15, I observed mature trees on the Tank Car Property being taken down. A total of 15 trees that border the residents were taken down.

After then, a fence was erected that surrounded the property. As you know, Mr. Faust testified that the fence was needed to protect the residents' pets from harm. I will attest that a pet or person has never been harmed on this property before. Rather, the purpose of the fence is to deter vandals. Before there were buses at this site, there was no concern for vandalism or any criminal activity. This business now has become a target for crime. In turn, the residents are now targets for crime when there were no prior concerns.

The land was cleared and gravel was then spread throughout the property. This was with no concern of grading or water run off issues.

I observed fifty foot telephone poles arrive at the site. I observed the markings on the land for their installation. The markings also were on the border to the residents.

I observed a fuel pad being installed.

While all of this was going on, in excess of 80 school buses arrived at the site.

It is my belief that all of these events substantially and permanently changed this site.

The buses were transported to the site during off-peak hours. Yet, this caused havoc with our traffic. It was observed that buses did not stop at the stop signs, while children were outside playing. Buses blocked the thru traffic on the streets, so the train of buses could pass without interruption.

Although Mr. Faust advised the residents he intends to have 85-130 school buses on this site, there are intentions of further expansion.

The proposed route for the 85-130 buses is down Walnut Ave and a left onto Camp Hill Road and a left or right onto Pennsylvania Ave. These 85-130 buses and 85-130 operator cars will make it impossible for the residents on Fairwold Lane, which is a cul-de-sac from entering or exiting their street.

Walnut Ave is a narrow road and is one way in each direction, with no shoulders or painted lines to delineate the lanes. Further, there are no sidewalks and. With the land on each side of the road sloped, the pedestrians and bicyclists must walk or ride on the road itself. There is a newly created Sandy Run Park that is adjacent to the quarry. Again, this traffic would preclude use, by foot, bicycle nor automobile to this park.

There is a bridge on Walnut Ave. The extent of the proposed traffic will no doubt deteriorate the road itself and that of the bridge.

Walnut Ave has gates installed at each end, to preclude access when the creek overflows. When access is blocked, the 85-130 buses and 85-130 operator cars will have no other alternative to but drive through the neighborhood of Oreland. This will create further hazards and prevent access to the residents' homes.

Simply put, these roads were not designed to handle this type of traffic in a residential area.

I invite the court to drive through our streets and neighborhood to fully appreciate the extent of the traffic.

Here is what the residents can expect:

5:10 a.m. - 5:30 a.m. - arrival of approx 85-130 bus operators (cars)  
6:10 a.m. - 6:30 a.m. - departure of 85-130 buses  
7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. - arrival of 85-130 buses  
8:15 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. - departure of approx 85-130 bus operators (cars)  
1:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. - arrival of approx. 85-130 bus operators (cars)  
1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. - departure of 85-130 buses  
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - arrival of 85-130 buses  
4:15 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - departure of approx 85-130 bus operators (cars)

Please note, while Mr. Faust testified that some of his operators will take the train, the earliest and first train to Oreland arrives at 6:05 a.m., well after the start of business. There is also a 15-20 minute walk from the train station to the bus depot.

While the buses are not on the streets, they will be jockeyed throughout the property. With that, the reserve alarms will be constantly going off at all hours of the day.

At night, with the proposed lights, we will never be able to gaze at the stars. We will never be able to appreciate darkness.

There are concerns that further foliage will be torn down, foliage that borders the residents, to install the light posts and electrical poles.

I submit that Mr. Faust has greatly modified this land and continues to do so.

If the court were to permit temporary use of the property, while the issues are pending, we, the residents, would have very real concerns about our welfare and safety.

We would still experience the noise and light pollution. Although there is no current overhead lighting, imagine the lights, noise and exhaust from 85-130 buses and 85-130 automobiles.

I would ask that the bus depot be located on the property of Cheltenham School District, as they proposed in their RFP of February 15, 2013.

This is the only logical solution. Employees cannot work at a site with no water or electricity. This would also further the interests of Mr. Faust and the School District. The School District would save money, as they would pay less for transportation costs, as noted in their RFP. Further, Mr. Faust would not have to pay for fuel to travel to the various schools. As you will recall, Mr. Faust testified that the contract with the School District required him to be within 5 miles of the schools he intends to service. At the Tank Car property, there are 3 of the 7 schools that are outside of this 5 mile radius. Elkins Park School is 6 miles away. Myers Elementary School is 7 miles away. Cheltenham Elementary School is 8.3 miles away.

I believe the band practice can have their practices where they did the year before.

I believe the impact to the residents of Springfield Township would be much greater than that to the high school band.

I, on behalf of the residents of Springfield Township, ask the court to stop all bus activity until we may appreciate the full extent of the dangers and hazards to our community.

This decision will forever impact us, the residents